

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently amended) An air induction system as set forth in claim [[2]] 23 wherein the seal comprises an annular band clamped along opposite edges to the housing and duct.

4. (Currently amended) An air induction system as set forth in claim [[3]] 23 wherein the seal is made of silicon rubber.

5. (Currently amended) An air induction system as set forth in claim [[1]] 23 wherein the housing further comprises ~~a nacelle and~~ a frame at a back end of the nacelle, the frame having an opening therein comprising said exit, ~~and wherein a front of the duct is received through the opening.~~

6. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 5 wherein the seal extends between the outside of the duct and the opening in the frame.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 6 wherein the duct has a rigid protrusion on its outside, the seal being clamped against the protrusion.

9. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 8 wherein the protrusion comprises an L-shaped body extending in a ring around the outside of the duct.

10-11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently amended) An air induction system as set forth in claim [[1]] 23 wherein the housing further comprises a ~~nacelle~~ and a frame on a back end of the nacelle, the nacelle being hinged to the frame for swinging movement between a closed position for engine operation and an open position for maintenance.

13. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 12 further comprising a rod which secures the nacelle at the open position so that it will not inadvertently move.

14. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 13 wherein the rod has a first end secured to the frame and a second end secured to the nacelle, the first end being slidably movable in a slot attached to the frame.

15. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 14 wherein the rod and slot are shaped and arranged to assume a locking position when the nacelle swings to the open position.

16. (Original) An air induction system as set forth in claim 15 further comprising a spring at the second end urging the rod to lock the nacelle at the open position.

17-22. Cancelled.

23. (Previously presented) An air induction system for an aircraft engine to remove contaminants from intake air and deliver the air to the engine, the system comprising:

a nacelle comprising a housing having outer sides and a hollow interior, at least one side having an opening with a filter panel mounted therein for receiving intake air into the housing, an exit opening located in the housing for discharging air received into the housing through the filter panel toward the engine, a flange projecting axially from the housing and extending around the exit opening in the housing;

a transition duct for directing intake air exiting the exit opening of the housing toward the engine, the duct being attached to and supported by the engine, a portion of the duct being positioned through the exit opening in the housing and suspended within the opening, an outer surface of the duct being spaced from an edge of the exit opening so that the duct can move conjointly with the engine and with respect to the nacelle without the duct engaging the housing of the nacelle, the portion of the duct received in the housing having a bell-mouth shaped end for receiving intake air; and

a flexible and resilient seal positioned between the housing of the nacelle and the duct for preventing entry of unfiltered air through the outer surface of the duct and the edge of the exit opening, the seal extending around the outer surface of the duct such that the seal is not exposed to air flowing in the flow path inside the duct, the seal being formed from an elastic material for permitting relative movement between the duct and the housing of the nacelle while maintaining an airtight seal between the duct and the housing, the seal being stretchable to about twice its unloaded length without damaging the seal, the seal including a slack portion equal to about twice the length required for the seal.